

Romanian Forest Certification Scheme 2017 – Annex 02

PEFC-RO DST 8002:2017



**PEFC**<sup>TM</sup>

PEFC/46-01-01

## **Guidelines**

for assessing sustainable forest management  
in Romania

March 2017

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## Introduction and general information

The PEFC Council (Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification) is a global organization for promoting sustainable forest management through forest certification and forest products labeling. The PEFC Council approves the national forest certification schemes that meet the requirements of the PEFC Council, which are subject to regular assessments. Products that have a PEFC certification and / or label provide users and consumers with the raw materials used to produce them from sustainably managed forests.

The basic principle of PEFC certification in Romania is to maintain documented high forest management standards, to identify and implement measures to improve potential areas. Sustainable forest management has a long tradition in Romania, since 1852 there were regulations for sustainable forest management. Preservation and sustainable forest management is currently regulated by the Forest Code of 2008 (with the last valid amendment in 2015), which is very strict compared to similar international regulations. The aim is to continuously improve forest management, so that forests in Romania can continue to carry out more functions, such as ecological, economic and social ones.

This document was drafted following an open, transparent, consultative, consensual process and involving a wide range of stakeholders. The document is part of the category of technical documents of the Romanian national PEFC standards and refers to defining the principles that form the Standard Guidelines. These guidelines were discussed in an open and transparent consultation procedure with stakeholders and also the comments and discussion results were included in the standard. The aim was to achieve a broad consensus among organizations and participants.

These principles define the requirements for forest management, where the PEFC voluntary certification is made on units of assessment (group of individual properties / properties). These requirements complement the high level of sustainability in forest management. In principle, sustainable management in an assessment unit is proven by analyzing the provisions of the "Criteria and Indicators for Assessing Sustainable Management in Romania" catalog. Some guidelines refer to catalog indicators and are the desired objectives, others are management principles.

The most important particularity of the forestry system in Romania is that for properties larger than 10 hectares, according to the law, drafting and respecting of the management plans is mandatory. The forest management plans are drawn up by certified specialized companies, respecting the Technical Norms and the management plans made are approved individually by Orders of the responsible minister.

PEFC's work is a contribution to promoting sustainable forest management, as was encouraged by the global community in the monitoring process of the Rio de Janeiro World Summit. The central reference document is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was adopted by the World Community in 1992 and ratified by Romania in 1994 (Law 58/1994). Under Article 6 of the CBD, each country must develop national strategies, plans or

programs for the maintenance and sustainable use of its biological diversity, or adapt existing strategies to it.

Given the importance of sustainable forest management for the economy and for forest care, stakeholders support the increased use of wood from sustainably managed forests.

MCPFE – PEOLG based criteria and indicators form the fundamentals of this standard.

**Guidelines**  
**for assessing sustainable forest management**  
**in Romania**

for individual and group certification

## Criterion 1: Maintaining and improving forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon circuit

### 1.1. Sustainable use of forests according to assigned functions

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
1.1.1.	The certification area must be endowed with management plans, elaborated, approved and updated in compliance with the technical norms in the field, and going through all stages stipulated by law, considering the cycle of inventory and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including an appropriate assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations	3.4.a, 1.1.a, 1.2. a
1.1.2.	The area covered by the certification must be identifiable in relation to the categories of use, production subunits and assigned functions.	1.1. c, 1.1. d, 5.1. a, 5.2. a, 5.3. a, 5.4. a
1.1.3.	The planned management measures should take into account the functions assigned by the management plans.	1.1.d, 3.5.a, 3.5. b
1.1.4.	The forest owners, their managers, representatives of the public authority and, where appropriate, the civil society will take all necessary steps to find technical solutions that meet the economic, technical, ecological and social objectives at the I. management planning conference, making full use of related services and tools that support land-use planning and nature conservation.	3.4. a, 4.2. d
1.1.5	Conversion of forests to other types of land use, including conversion of primary forests to forest plantations, shall not occur unless in justified circumstances, does not have a negative impact on threatened forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas.	4.2.a, 4.2.b, 4.2.c, 4.2.d, 5.4.a, 6.5.a, 6.6.a

### 1.2. Growing stock is maintained or increased qualitatively and quantitatively

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
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Criterion 2: Preserving and maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems

1.2.1.	The forest management plans must provide a growing stock in accordance with established economic, environmental and social functions.	1.2.a, 1.2.b
1.2.2.	The management plan must ensure the maintenance of the medium and long term resources in terms of quantity and quality, through a balance between growth and harvesting indices.	1.2.a
1.2.3.	The volume of wood harvested as principal yield in a unit of management cannot exceed the allowable cut of the principal yield of this unit, established by forest management plans, for the period of its validity.	3.1.a, 1.2.b, 3.5.b

**1.3. Structure of the stands and the forest reflects implementation of the management plans fundamentals**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
1.3.1.	The area included in the certification must be identifiable by reference to their structure by age classes and the current nature of the forest type	1.3. a, 1.3.b
1.3.2.	Management plans solutions will aim to direct the management unit to a balanced age distribution that ensures continuity of long-term yields and functions	1.3.a
1.3.3.	The forest resource manager implements appropriate management measures to reduce the share of derived, partially derived and sub-productive stands.	1.3.b, 2.2.b, 4.3.a

**Criterion 2: Preserving and maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems**

**2.1 Surveillance of the state of health and vitality of forest ecosystems**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
2.1.1.	Forest management must ensure the health and vitality of forests.	2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.1.e, 2.1.f
2.1.2.	All abiotic, biotic or anthropogenic factors affecting the health, productivity and stability of the forest must be monitored at all times, following the affected area, the	2.1.a

Criterion 2: Preserving and maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems

frequency and intensity of the factor, as well as the impact on the stands.

2.1.3.	<p>The emergence, evolution and harmful influences on forests are pursued for the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abiotic factors: Wind and snow (falls, breakages), negative temperatures, landslides, floods and fires;</li> <li>- Biotic factors: micro-fauna (insects, mites, gastropods, etc.), phytopathogens, hunting animals and macro-fauna species (rodents, birds, grazing mammals, etc.), domestic animals;</li> <li>- Anthropogenic factors: forest management (e.g. harvesting damage), forms of pollution, non-organic waste and litter;</li> </ul>	2.1.b, 2.1.c, 2.1.d, 2.1.e, 2.1.f
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## 2.2 Integrated control of forest damaging factors

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
2.2.1.	<p>Integrated forest protection is based on systematic prevention and environmentally acceptable control of harmful factors. It consists of specific (preventive and curative) protective measures doubled by preventive, revitalizing, sanitary or appropriate forestry measures.</p>	2.2.a
2.2.2.	<p>Maintaining and increasing the health and vitality of forest ecosystems and the rehabilitation (reconstruction) of degraded forest ecosystems will be done whenever possible through forestry measures.</p>	2.2.b
2.2.3.	<p>All measures, which will be documented and verified, will be conducted in accordance with national and European legislation as well as international agreements.</p>	2.2.b
2.2.4	<p>Forest ecosystems disturbed by combining the effect of harmful biotic, abiotic and anthropic agents will be subject to revitalization</p>	2.2.b

## 2.3 Biological and chemical control

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
2.3.1.	<p>The use of chemicals is limited by national and international usage regulations. It is not allowed to use herbicides and pesticides which are prohibited by international conventions or without proper equipment and training.</p>	2.3.a

Criterion 2: Preserving and maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems

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|--------|---|--------------|
| 2.3.2. | Herbicides and pesticides are only used on a limited scale and where possible they are replaced by forestry measures or biological methods. | 2.3.b, 2.3.c |
| 2.3.3. | Fertilizers or stimulants shall be applied in a controlled and environmentally responsible manner.  | 2.3.d        |
| 2.3.4  | All chemicals must comply with standards, thresholds and conditions (hygienic, toxicological and ecological) on nature protection.          | 2.3.a        |
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### Criterion 3: Maintaining and encouraging productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood products)

#### 3.1 Growing and harvesting of wood

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
3.1.1.	The volume of harvested wood cannot exceed a level that can be sustained quantitatively and qualitatively over the long term, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.	3.1.a
3.1.2.	There must be a balance between the growth and the harvested volume in the last 10 years, the cuts cannot exceed the growth, just in the cases provided by the regulations in force	3.1.a

#### 3.2 Non-wood products

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
3.2.1.	The amount of non-wood products harvested from flora or fauna must not exceed a level that can be sustained in the long run, and optimum use shall be made of the harvested forest products, with due regard to nutrient off-take.	3.2.a, 3.2.b
3.2.2.	The commercial use of non-wood products will be limited to an environmentally sustainable level.	3.2.a, 3.2.b, 3.2.c
3.2.3.	The extraction of forest products, of non-biological origin, is done following legal approvals, respecting the environmental requirements.	3.2.b
3.2.4.	Commercial resin harvesting is not allowed in certified forests.	3.2.b

#### 3.3 Marketable services of forests

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
3.3.1.	Marketable services are only used to an extent that will not endanger the sustainable management of forests from an ecological, economic or socio-economic point of view (tourism services, leasing, educational services, etc.), taking	3.3.a

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into account any available market studies and possibilities for new markets and economic activities in connection with all relevant goods and services of forests.

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### 3.4 Managed forests

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
3.4.1.	The forest management system is based on a detailed study of the situation, maps and plans for forest planning according to legal requirements and voluntary management guidelines.	3.4.a
3.4.2	Periodically, there are monitoring of how management plans are implemented and their results will also be taken into account when new management plans are being made.	3.4.a

### 3.5 Management methods

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
3.5.1.	Treatment methods and tending operations for the management of stands are applied in such a way that the productive potential of the site is not reduced in time.	3.5.a, 3.5.b
3.5.2.	Appropriate infrastructure, such as forest roads, tractor roads and bridges, are planned, built and maintained to ensure efficient transport of goods and services, minimizing the negative environmental impact.	3.5.c, 3.5.d

## Criterion 4: Maintaining, preserving and adequately enhancing biological diversity in forest ecosystems

### 4.1 Structural diversity

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
4.1.1.	Promoting maintenance and / or installation of mixed tree stands with tree species adapted to the crop sites. Pure stands, naturally installed (from seed, coppice shoots, root shoots), are exempted from this recommendation.	4.1.a

Criterion 4: Maintaining, preserving and adequately enhancing biological diversity in forest ecosystems

4.1.2. The target composition of the stands should include a sufficient proportion of tree species of the fundamental type of the natural forest. 1.3.b, 4.1.a

4.1.3 By applying the tending operations and management of stands and forestry treatment methods, rare species of trees and shrubs will be promoted. 4.1.g

**4.2 Threatened species**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
4.2.1.	Special forest management measures will be taken to protect representative forest ecosystems, stands in protected areas, threatened, protected wild animal and plant species.	4.2.a, 4.2.c, 4.2.d
4.2.2.	Maps/Plans of areas with high concentrations of representative ecosystems, endemic species, endangered species (of animals and plants), Natura 2000 sites, are available	4.2.b

**4.3 Forest regeneration**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
4.3.1.	Where possible, natural regeneration of seed shall be preferred, with the condition it is adapted to the site and satisfactory from a qualitative and quantitative point of view. If necessary, the empty areas from natural regenerations can be completed by planting.	4.1.a, 4.1.b, 4.3.a
4.3.2.	Allochtonous tree species can be used in afforestation/ reforestation works in accordance with the provisions of specific guidelines/technical regulations on regeneration/ afforestation target compositions.	4.1.c
4.3.3.	Allochtonous tree species can be used in mixed stands if they do not, by their natural regeneration, affect the regeneration potential of indigenous tree species, leading to their elimination.	4.1.c
4.3.4.	The forest seeds and the afforestation material used for the planting of forests must be of known and verifiable origin. They are required to come from seed-source stands seed orchards included in the National catalog of forest reproductive material.	4.3.b

Criterion 5: Maintaining and improving protective functions in forest management

- 4.3.5. Genetically modified trees will not be used in afforestation / reforestation activities. 4.1.h

**4.4 Biological diversity**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
4.4.1.	Forestry treatment methods will promote irregular and mixed stands with various horizontal and vertical structures.	4.1.e
4.4.2.	Clear-cuts can only be applied on a small scale, in small felling areas and under the conditions foreseen by the applicable forestry legislation.	3.5.a, 4.3.a
4.4.3.	Coppice system (simple or composed) is not considered to be clear-cut and applies only to certain tree species under the conditions foreseen by the applicable forestry legislation.	3.5.a, 4.3.a
4.4.4.	An appropriate number of biotope trees (dry trees, scrub trees, rare trees) will be preserved and protected to preserve biological diversity. Their number must not lead to economic disadvantages for the forest owner.	4.1.d
4.4.5.	When selecting biotope trees, consideration will be given to aspects of forest protection, work safety in forestry / forest road activities.	4.1.d
4.4.6.	The aspect of "biotope trees" will be included in forest management plans.	3.4.a
4.4.7.	The populations of game species will be kept in adequate flocks to avoid significant injuries to young natural or artificial regeneration and tree stands.	2.1.a, 2.1.c
4.4.8.	Grazing in the forest of domestic animals is possible only in compliance with the provisions of the forestry legislation in force.	2.1.a, 2.1.c

**Criterion 5: Maintaining and improving protective functions in forest management**

**5.1 Water protection**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
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Criterion 5: Maintaining and improving protective functions in forest management

5.1.1.	The management of water protection forests will maximize the hydrological function of the stands, ensuring the protection of water resources, aquatic and riparian ecosystems.	1.1.c, 1.1d, 5.1.a, 3.5.a
5.1.2.	Water courses, mineral and drinking water sources and accumulations of drinking or industrial water should not be affected by forestry activities. Particular attention should be paid to riparian areas and the quality of surface and deep water in the perimeters of water sources.	3.5.c, 3.5.d
5.1.3.	The management of stands in torrential basins is a way of controlling the runoff and reducing the impact of torrential floods on endangered social economic objectives.	1.1.d, 5.1.a
5.1.4.	The management of forests designated for water protection must lead to structures capable of improving the runoff regime, to protect the banks, the undammed riversides, the dam-bank zones and the hydro-technical installations for the regularization of large water courses.	1.1.d, 5.1.a
5.1.5.	Wood harvesting technologies as well as adjacent activities must be so chosen and executed that the impact on water drainage and the quality of the water is minimal.	3.5.c, 3.5.d
5.1.6.	Particular attention should be paid to the management of harvesting residues as well as waste resulting from forestry activities (hydrocarbons, household waste, etc.) so that river-beds and waters remain clean.	3.5.c
5.1.7.	In special situations, for the protection of water, forest management can include, besides specific forestry works, the improvement by biological, hydro-technical and biotechnical works of the river-beds to regulate runoff, alluvial retention, flood flow reduction, etc.	5.1.b

**5.2 Soil protection**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
5.2.1.	The forest, as a land-use, ensures the best protection of soils against rain and wind erosion, having in special environmental and structural conditions, special functions for unstable soil and soil consolidation and water balance adjustment in the soil. The way these forests are managed must maintain and improve the protective capacities designated for the concerned forests.	5.2.a



Criterion 5: Maintaining and improving protective functions in forest management

5.2.2.	Specific management, measures and work should focus on soil protection and reducing the impact of operations at its level.	1.1.c, 1.1.d, 5.2.b, 3.5.a
5.2.3.	On lands prone to erosion and landslides, it is to be avoided that hauling operations take place in defrosted and wet soil conditions. It is also recommended that these operations are not executed by semi-crawling or crawling regardless of the ground conditions.	3.5.c, 3.5.d
5.2.4.	To support forest vegetation, forest management can also include special construction works (supporting walls, simple terraces, drainages, etc.) or biotechnical works (terraces supported on fences, wattle-works, etc.) on the areas of vulnerable land and those adjacent to them.	5.2.b

**5.3 Infrastructure protection**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
5.3.1.	In the case of forests in the immediate vicinity of infrastructure elements of local or national interest (motorways, public roads, normal railways, waterways, cultural monuments, etc.), their management, forestry techniques and technologies must be made to avoid the interruption of the protective effect on the protected objectives, and by the specific technological processes not to be harmed.	5.3.a
5.3.2.	The construction and maintenance of forest roads and access roads must be made in such a way that the impact on the soil is minimal and the material resulting from excavations does not reach the watercourses. Crossing the watercourses should be used bridges and beam bridges whose hydraulic section can ensure the transit of exceptional flows for each watercourse.	3.5.d

**5.4 Other protection functions**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
5.4.1.	Forestry drainage works are only recommended in the case of the improvement of marshy or sliding land to be afforested, unless other viable solutions exist. Existing drainage works can be preserved, but the protection and, if	5.4.a

	possible, ecological rebuilding of swamps and other wetlands of particular value is encouraged.	
5.4.2.	For the protection of waters and soils, the use of biodegradable hydraulic oils should be promoted, and in the event of leakage, measures to neutralize and remove effects should be urgently taken.	3.5.c
5.4.3.	Under certain environmental conditions, forests must, as a matter of priority, also provide protection against harmful climatic factors (especially those found in Romania's steppe and silvo-steppe), against pollution or located on the altitude limit of the natural forests. The management of these forests should lead to the strengthening of the protective capacities specific to each forest area and the creation of structures that have a positive effect on harmful climatic and industrial factors.	1.1.c, 1.1.d, 3.5.a

## Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic and cultural functions and conditions of forests

### 6.1 Property, ownership and management rights

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.1.1.	The ownership right must be clear to any forest to be certified. Ownership must be complete, legally unquestionable, and cannot be a reason for further disputes, in order not to compromise the sustainability of the management of the forest to be certified.	1.1.b, 6.1.a
6.1.2.	Forests for which ownership is not clarified cannot be included in the certification process.	6.1.a
6.1.3.	All forests subject to certification, irrespective of the type of property, must be managed on the basis of a legally accepted form of planning.	3.4.a
6.1.4.	All forests subject to certification, irrespective of the form of ownership, must be managed/administered by a legally recognized public or private entity, hereinafter referred to as the "certified area manager". Only areas for which there is a service/administration contract in place, according to the legal provisions, can be included in the certification process.	6.1.b

- 6.1.5. The certified forest manager must demonstrate that the certified area has clear boundaries, materialized both on the management plan maps and on the ground through conventional signs. Within these limits ownership rights must be clearly defined and proven through property acts. 3.4.a

## 6.2. Forest contribution to rural development

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.2.1.	Forest planning shall aim to respect the multiple functions offered by the forest to society, taking into account the role of the forest in rural development. Therefore, the planning process will grant great importance to the proper identification of all the social, economic and environmental functions according to the functional zoning criteria existing in the technical regulations in force at the time of certification.	3.4.a, 1.1.c, 1.1.d
6.2.2.	Forest management and the execution of forestry work are done by engaging, as far as possible, local labor force. Where possible, it is advisable to prefer local contractors to execute the harvesting and primary processing of wood.	6.2.a, 6.2.b
6.2.3.	In the forest management process, it is also recommended to market non-wood products in the possession of the forest owner, as an alternative source of income both for the owner and for the local communities.	3.2.b, 3.2.c

## 6.3. Working conditions, health and safety at work

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.3.1.	Both the owner and the manager of certified areas must ensure employment on non-discriminatory basis, in accordance with conventions initiated by the International Labor Organization and implemented by Romanian legislation.	6.3.a
6.3.2.	Prevention of occupational accidents and occupational diseases in the forest sector is an important social aspect of sustainable management. The certified area manager must implement and systematically pursue occupational health and safety activities, in accordance with national legislation.	6.3.b

- 6.3.3. Occupational accidents occurring in the certified area management process must be recorded and analyzed (as well as number, causes and severity). Documenting how to deal with the causes and consequences of these accidents should be in compliance with the legal provisions. 6.3.c

#### 6.4. Forest education and research

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.4.1.	The certified area manager and/or the owner must formally inform the forestry contractors about the conditions imposed by the certification standard in carrying out the contracted works.	6.4.a
6.4.2.	In Romania, forestry education is offered at all levels. The certified area manager will, however, ensure that all employees receive continuous training activities to understand and implement the certification requirements of this standard.	6.4.b
6.4.3.	The manager of the administrated areas will support the research and data collection activities necessary for the sustainable management of the managed forests.	6.4.c
6.4.4.	In the process of planning and execution of forestry works it is recommended to use the results of the relevant research activities obtained by itself or by dissemination by the research organizations.	3.4.a

#### 6.5. Recreational services

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.5.1.	Recreational activities involving the use of motorized vehicles are permitted only with the consent of the owner and the manager of the forest. The manager/owner of the certified areas will ensure access to the marked routes and will appropriately mark areas where public access is restricted, to avoid potential conflicts between the public and the owner.	6.5.a, 6.5.b
6.5.2	In the certified areas in protected areas, access with motorized vehicles will be restricted, as required by law.	

Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic and cultural functions and conditions of forests

6.5.3.	The forest planning system will aim to maintain and increase the quality of the recreational services offered by the forest, respecting the principles of functional zoning.	1.1.c, 1.1.d, 6.5.a
6.5.4.	In the areas identified by the management plans as having a recreational role, elements of structural and compositional diversity will be promoted to increase the aesthetic value of the forest.	1.1.d, 6.5.a, 3.5.a

**6.6. Historical, spiritual and cultural values of forests**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.6.1.	It will be followed by management planning assignment of forest recreation functions in the vicinity of recognized historical/cultural monuments.	6.6.a
6.6.2.	The manager/owner of the certified area must make an assessment of the areas of historical, cultural and spiritual values, that cannot be identified by the management plans, integrating forests with historical, literary or cultural significance certified by legal documents.	6.6.a
6.6.3.	In the forest areas identified by the management plans or by the manager/owner as having historical, cultural and spiritual values, forestry works will be applied to preserve their natural structure.	3.5.a

**6.7. Public participation and information**

Nr.	Guidelines	Specific indicators
6.7.1.	The manager/owner of the certified area must prepare and make available to those concerned a summary of management plan fundamentals used in the certified area containing information on: the assigned functions, the constituent subunits of production, the harvesting age, the composition and the treatment methods applied in the certified area.	6.7.a
6.7.2.	The certified site manager and or the owner shall, at least once a year, consult stakeholders (local communities, NGOs, institutions, harvesting and processing companies) on the impact of forest management.	6.7.a
6.7.3.	The certified area manager shall record, document, and settle any complaint regarding deviations from the	6.7.b

Criterion 6: Maintenance of other socio-economic and cultural functions and conditions of forests

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implementation of the provisions of the management plans  
in relation to the legal provisions.

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